

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INRE-00 NSAE-00 /031 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4851

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T LONDON 12022

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, UN

SUBJECT: RESUPPLY TO ISRAEL

REF: STATE 204562

1. WE KNOW THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S GENERAL VIEW ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION IS AS FOLLOWS: IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT UK SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED OR APPEAR TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY WAY WITH ISRAEL NOR WITH ANY ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL OR WHICH ARABS MAY THINK ARE IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL.

2. IN LIGHT OF PRECEDING PARAGRAPH WE THINK THAT BRITISH GOVT REACTION TO A USG REQUEST FOR USE OF BRITISH BASES FOR LOGISTICAL SUPPORT OR TRANSIT POINTS EN ROUTE TO MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE NEGATIVE. BRITISH GOVT HAS ALREADY ASKED AND RECEIVED FROM USG ASSURANCES THAT US IS NOT RESUPPLYING ISRAEL FROM STOCKS IN THE UK NOR USING THE UK AS A TRANSIT POINT. (FLOYD-GALLOWAY SECURE TELECON OCTOBER 16) WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRIMIN OR FOREIGN SECRETARY WILL MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT. USE OF US BASES IN UK WITHOUT LATTER'S SECRET

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PERMISSION WOULD CAUSE POLITICAL PROBLEM OF FIRST MAGNITUDE.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS POSSIBILITY USG MAY

WISH TO APPROACH UK FOR AUTHORIZATION TO USE BASE FACILITIES IN THE UK FOR REFUELING PLANES RETURNING FROM THE MIDDLE EAST. IN OUR VIEW BRITISH WOULD PREFER NOT TO GRANT SUCH AUTHORIZATION BUT MIGHT RELUCTANTLY DO SO IF USG PRESSED HARD.

4. WITH REGARD TO POSSIBILITY OF USE OF US BASES IN UK FOR EMERGENCY LANDINGS, WE ANTICIPATE THAT BRITISH WOULD VIEW THIS AS LAST RESORT ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS.

5. JUST AS MEDIA AND PUBLIC ATTITUDES IN BRITAIN ARE MIXED TOWARD MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, WE ANTICIPATE SUCH ATTITUDES WOULD BE MIXED VIS-A-VIS ANY US USE OF BASES IN UK IN CONJUNCTION WITH RESUPPLY, ASSUMING UK GOVT HAD AGREED THERETO.

6. SHOULD WE BE INSTRUCTED TO RAISE QUESTION WITH HMG WE WOULD PROPOSE TO DRAW PRIMARILY ON JUSTIFICATION CONTAINED STATE 203684, WITH HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE SOVIET AIRLIFT TO ARABS (UPDATED ON QUANTITIES).

7. IF HMG SHOULD AGREE TO US USE OF UK BASES IN ANY CONNECTION WITH ISRAELI RESUPPLY, WE ARE CERTAIN THAT THEY WOULD INSIST ON PRESS GUIDANCE AGREED IN ADVANCE.

8. DEPT PASS UNCINCEUR.
ANNENBERG

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED UNCINCEUR (PER FINAL PARA ABOVE TEXT)

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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